

---

---

## HOUSE RESOLUTION

DECLARING A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY RELATING TO CLIMATE CHANGE  
AND REQUESTING STATEWIDE COORDINATION TO IDENTIFY, PLAN  
FOR, AND CREATE CROSS-SECTOR SOLUTIONS TO STRENGTHEN  
HAWAII'S PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE TO THE CLIMATE CRISIS.

1           WHEREAS, humanity's runaway greenhouse gas emissions have  
2 contributed to accelerated climate change, characterized by  
3 rising global temperatures, sea level rise, ecological collapse,  
4 and the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather  
5 events; and  
6

7           WHEREAS, as stated in House Resolution No. 192 (2023),  
8 scientific consensus indicates public health will be impacted  
9 because climate change will increase the incidence of increased  
10 heat, vector-borne diseases, crop failure and food insecurity,  
11 water insecurity, waterborne diseases, extreme weather events,  
12 air pollution, and adverse mental health impacts due to these  
13 climate stressors and collective eco-grief, which refers to the  
14 deep sense of loss and overwhelming emotional response felt when  
15 learning about and experiencing the catastrophic destruction of  
16 the environment due to climate change; and  
17

18           WHEREAS, climate change adversely impacts the social  
19 determinants of health, which include food security, economic  
20 stability, strong social and community support networks, healthy  
21 environments, and access to quality health care and emergency  
22 services; and  
23

24           WHEREAS, as an island state, Hawaii remains particularly  
25 vulnerable to the effects of climate change, thereby endangering  
26 the health, safety, and welfare of its residents, warranting  
27 preemptive and protective action; and  
28

29           WHEREAS, climate change and health impacts are not limited  
30 to the responses of Department of Health, but transcend  
31 traditionally siloed approaches to state administration and  
32 impact all departments including those that oversee land, water,  
33 agriculture, transportation, and emergency services; and  
34



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii established itself as a national leader in  
2 adapting to the climate crisis by becoming the first state in  
3 the United States to declare a climate emergency through Senate  
4 Resolution No. 44 (2021), which recognized that climate change  
5 threatens the health, safety, and welfare of the people of  
6 Hawaii; and  
7

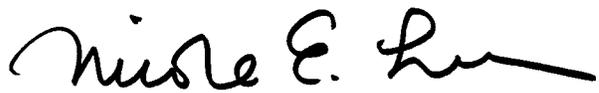
8 WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 44 (2021) called for  
9 statewide commitment and mobilization of resources to a just  
10 transition to a decarbonized economy and facilitation of  
11 investments in beneficial projects and infrastructure, but did  
12 not declare a public health emergency nor call for the  
13 mobilization of resources necessary to adapt and protect human  
14 health in Hawaii from the severe threat of climate change; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, leading scientific and medical authorities,  
17 including the United Nations, World Health Organization, and  
18 American Public Health Association, have identified climate  
19 change as a major public health crisis; now, therefore,  
20

21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
23 of 2025, that this body acknowledges that climate change poses a  
24 dire threat to public health, declares a public health emergency  
25 in the State, and requests entities statewide to actively  
26 examine how the climate considerations within their departments  
27 impact human health and coordinate with other departments to  
28 identify, plan for, and create cross-sector solutions to  
29 strengthen Hawaii's public health response to the climate  
30 crisis; and  
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
33 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Attorney General;  
34 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director  
35 of the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development; Director  
36 of Health; Director of Transportation; Chairperson of the Board  
37 of Agriculture; and mayors of the City and County of Honolulu  
38 and counties of Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii.  
39  
40  
41

OFFERED BY:



MAR - 7 2025

